

PRESS RELEASE

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Paul R. Griesbach, 50, Madison, Wisconsin, was sentenced today by Chief U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to the mandatory minimum sentence of ten years in prison for possession of child pornography. Griesbach pleaded guilty to this charge on June 22, 2007.

Agents of the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation executed a search warrant at Griesbach's residence based on information that someone using Griesbach's account had a photo album on Yahoo! which contained child pornography. An analysis of Griesbach's computer resulted in the discovery of over 150 images of child pornography. Griesbach was sentenced to the mandatory minimum ten years in prison because he had a 1989 conviction for second degree sexual assault.

This case has been brought as part of Project Safe Childhood. In February 2006, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative designed to protect children from online exploitation and abuse. Led by the U.S. Attorneys' Offices, Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local

resources to better locate, apprehend, and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit www.projectsafecchildhood.gov.

The charges against Griesbach were the result of an investigation conducted by the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Paul W. Connell.

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